



State of Maryland

Advisory Council on Mental Hygiene/Planning Council

Martin O'Malley, Governor – Anthony G. Brown, Lt. Governor – Joshua M. Sharfstein, M.D., Secretary, DHMH

MARYLAND ADVISORY COUNCIL ON MENTAL HYGIENE/ PL 102-321 PLANNING COUNCIL

Minutes

October 21, 2014

Maryland Advisory Council Members: Gerald Beemer, Sarah Burns, Chair;
M. Sue Diehl, Vice Chair; Joshana Goga, Dennis McDowell, Joanne Meekins, Livia Pazourek,
Charles Reifsnider, Anita Solomon, John Turner

Maryland Advisory Council Members Absent: Richard Blair, Jaimi L. Brown, Mike Finkle,
Michele Forzley, Edwin C. Oliver, Robert M. Pender, John Scharf, Sherrie Wilcox

Individuals highlighted as such are resigned members who have not yet been replaced.

PL 102-321 Council Members Present: Lynn Albizo, Robert Anderson,
T.E. Arthur, Coordinator; Naomi Booker, Herb Cromwell, Jan Desper, Kate Farinholt,
Sharon Lipford, Dan Martin, Cynthia Petion, Jacqueline Powell, Linda Raines, Michelle Stewart,
Phoenix Woody

PL 102-321 Council Members Absent: Anne Blackfield, Michael Bluestone,
Eugenia W. Conolly, Chicquita Crawford, R. Terence Farrell, Nancy Feeley,
Vira Froehlinger, Ann Geddes, A. Scott Gibson, Julie Jerscheid, George Lipman,
William Manahan, Alexis Moss, Ebele Onwueme, Sheryl Sparer, Kathleen Ward

BHA Staff Present: Brian Hepburn, Robin Poponne, Iris Reeves, Cyntrice Bellamy,
Brandon Johnson, Greta Carter

Guests and Others:

Erik Roskes, DHMH, Office of Forensic Services;
Brandee Izquierdo, Behavioral Health Administration;
Jessica Honke, National Alliance on Mental Illness of Maryland;
Christina Church for Anne Sheridan, State Drug and Alcohol Abuse Council

c/o Behavioral Health Administration

Spring Grove Hospital Center – 55 Wade Avenue – Dix Building – Catonsville MD 21228 – (410) 402-8473

TDD for Disabled – Maryland Relay Service (800) 735-2258

Healthy People in Healthy Communities

INTRODUCTIONS/REVIEW OF MINUTES:

The meeting was called to order by Council Chair, Sarah Burns, followed by introductions. The draft minutes of the September 17, 2014 Combined Councils meeting were reviewed and will be approved at the December 17th combined councils meeting with the State Drug and Alcohol Abuse Council. Please note that the approved minutes will be posted on the Behavioral Health Administration's (BHA) Web site at www.dhmfh.maryland.gov/mha. The Maryland Advisory Council on Mental Hygiene's link is listed under "Resources".

THE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Brian Hepburn, M.D., Executive Director, BHA, provided the following Director's Report:

Upcoming Events

Dr. Hepburn highlighted several important dates in the upcoming months:

- **November 4, 2014** – Gubernatorial Election Day. This is important because there are seven weeks left in the year and there is a lot to get accomplished in a short time. If there is a change in the Governmental Party, several items will be put on hold until January 2015.
- **January 1, 2015** – New Administrative Services Organization (ASO) contract with ValueOptions@Maryland (VO) will start. VO will administer the behavioral health (mental health and substance use disorder) benefit for Medicaid.
- **July 1, 2015** – ValueOptions@Maryland will start payment component for the fee-for-service grants. Uninsured funds will move from each jurisdiction to VO. VO will be responsible for reimbursing for uninsured eligible individuals starting July 1, 2015.

Budget:

Behavioral Health Administration's does not anticipate any mid-year adjustments to the FY 2015 budget at this time. A decision to make any adjustments will be made after the first quarter is reviewed and projections are made.

COUNCIL MEMBERS' AREAS OF CONCERN:

Several Council members had questions/concerns about Medicaid/Medicare insurance coverage and the difference in the benefit program. Medicaid is the joint federal and state program that provides health and long term care coverage for individuals with low-income. Medicaid covers a more comprehensive package for mental health services. Medicare is the federal program that provides hospital and medical insurance to people aged 65 or older and to certain ill or disabled individuals. Benefits to nursing homes and home health are limited to a short term.

Another area of concern was patients being discharged from hospitals and the respective community programs were not allowing them to return to the program they were in. Also, hospitals are finding it difficult to find agencies to accept patients and, in some cases, patients are refusing to go into certain programs.

Dr. Hepburn noted that hospitals used to get paid by episode of care, which placed focus on patients' length of stay. However, this has changed; there isn't pressure on length of stay but a high rate of readmission to hospitals. The goal is to try to get the hospitals to work more with

the community programs. Dr. Hepburn asked Council members to contact DHMH if they are having these types of issues so that it can be addressed.

PRESENTATION: A DISCUSSION OF SUICIDE PREVENTION EFFORTS IN MARYLAND AND EVIDENCE-BASED PRACTICE TOOLS/RESOURCES AVAILABLE – Cyntrice Bellamy, Chief, Community Operations, Suicide Prevention and Quality Assurance and Brandon Johnson, State Coordinator of Suicide Prevention, BHA Office of Children and Adolescents Services

Ms. Bellamy and Mr. Johnson gave an overview of Maryland's Suicide Prevention efforts:

- Governor's Commission on Suicide Prevention was created in 2009 and has representatives from across the state that include CSAs, State and Local government agencies and Suicide Survivors. Dr. Brian Hepburn is the Chair for the Governor's Commission.
- A State plan has been created by the Commission and goals outlined that have been implemented in the plan include:
 - Hire a staff person dedicated to Suicide Prevention (Mr. Johnson was hired in 2013).
 - Develop a Media campaign for Suicide Prevention.
 - Expand Youth Crisis hotline to Maryland's Crisis Hotline Network, available to all Maryland residents regardless of age (currently have six crisis centers throughout the State).
 - Spread the word that the Hotline is available to all Maryland residents (currently developing printed materials to help with this effort).
 - Have social media accounts on facebook and twitter
<https://www.facebook.com/MDSuicidePrevention>
<https://twitter.com/MDSuicidePrev>
 - Get more Evidence-based practices and initiate throughout the State
 - Kognito Interactive Gatekeeper Training Program-Introduced in March 2014, through a Webinar in collaboration with the University of Maryland to School Superintendents throughout the state to the software and how it works. The Kognito Program is designed to help middle and high school faculty, staff and administrators learn common signs of psychological distress and how to approach an at-risk student for referral to the school counselor. Superintendents were given the option to use the program in their school system because the program is not mandatory.
- Applied for and attended a two-day Policy Academy titled "Zero Suicide Academy" sponsored by SAMHSA in Washington, DC.
 - Applied for two Suicide Prevention grants through SAMSHA and was awarded the Garrett Lee Smith grant for \$735,000 a year, for 5 years (approximately \$3.7 million dollars. This grant will provide a continuum of suicide prevention trainings, resources, and technical assistance to advance the development of comprehensive suicide prevention and early intervention for youth and young adults ages 10-24.

- The Garrett Lee Smith grant will be used to:
 - Create a resource center for the State in collaboration with the University of Maryland to have a database for others who work with Suicide Prevention.
 - Increase Kognito gatekeeper training of middle and high school professionals and work to develop an elementary school module.
 - Train in suicide prevention (i.e. knowing when and how to intervene), to recognize the warning signs, risk factors of suicide or psychological distress. Kognito will be part of the Suicide Prevention campaign.

Ms. Bellamy and Mr. Johnson offer free trainings for various groups and organizations; trainings are tailored to meet specific needs. For additional information, please contact the BHA Office of Child and Adolescent Services at 410-402-8487.

COUNCIL BUSINESS:

Cynthia Petion announced that the annual meeting for the Planning Committee of the Joint Council to review the Implementation Report of the FY 2014 State Mental Health Plan will take place on November 18, 2014, immediately following the Joint Council meeting in Room 129 conference room of the Dix Building. The materials to be reviewed consist of: the final status reports on the strategies accomplished during the FY 2014 fiscal year and elements of the Mental Health Block Grant Implementation Report. The Mental Health Block Grant Implementation Report, which is due to SAMHSA-CMHS on December 2, 2014, will be submitted by the end of November.

Robin Poponne informed the Joint Council, that starting in 2015, all Joint Council meetings will be held in the Lower Level Conference Room in the Dix Building. Telephone conferencing will be available in 2015 for the Joint Council meetings.

Comments for the Joint Council FY 2014 Annual Report are still being accepted. Please email all comments to Robin Poponne at robin.poponne@maryland.gov.

The meeting was adjourned.

The Executive Committee will meet after the Council meeting.